



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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Drinking Water Program Updates

2019-06-13

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. LCR Revisions Status Statement
2. Update on PFAS and Information on Testing
3. AWIA – Amendments to Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
4. Need an Operator? Hire a Vet.
5. Board of Health Annual Letter
6. Lead and Copper Rule Sampling Requirements
7. Natural Resources Conservation Resources
8. 2019 Hurricane Season
9. Small System Sanitary Survey Webinar
10. AWIA Webinars
11. Trainings

LCR Revisions Status Statement

On June 6, 2019, EPA took the next step in its commitment to ensuring safe and clean drinking water by transmitting the proposed revisions of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for lead and copper to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for interagency review. The agency anticipates issuing the proposal this summer.

Background

In December 2018, EPA with its federal partners announced the Trump Administration's "Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts." As part of this plan, EPA under Administrator Wheeler's leadership is working to address lead in water systems across the country, including undertaking the first major overhaul of the Lead and Copper Rule since 1991. EPA anticipates issuing a proposed rule in summer 2019 after evaluating input received from the agency's

state, local, and tribal partners and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, and after reviewing the best available peer-reviewed science.

Update on PFAS and Information on Testing

Since April of this year MassDEP has embarked on a process to develop a drinking water standard for the six PFAS compounds. This standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) will be promulgated under the Commonwealth's standard regulation development process. This process, including stakeholder involvement is discussed in the attached letter.

In the interim, MassDEP is encouraging all PWS to voluntarily collect PFAS samples to better understand the PFAS contamination and how to best deal with the concerns. Please read the document labeled "Voluntary PFAS Sampling Guidance for PWS", for instructions on sampling procedures, lab analysis requirements, and guidance on what happens if PFAS is detected.

AWIA – Amendments to Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law on October of 2018 which amends the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). This new legislation requires state and tribal emergency response commissions to notify the applicable state agency (MassDEP) of any reportable releases and to promptly provide notice to community water systems of any hazardous releases that can potentially affect their water sources and to supply access to hazardous chemical inventory data. These requirements went into effect immediately.

Please read the attached AWIA FAQ document for more detailed information.

(Also see AWIA webinar available below)

Need an Operator? Hire a Vet.

Is your system facing staff retirements in the near future and no qualified replacements on the horizon? Look into hiring military veterans. Veterans have had great experience which is the skill set that is needed in the water industry; heavy equipment operation experience as well as mechanics, electrical, biology, and chemistry skills. Vets have been trained to work as a group to get the job done, are dedicated, and respect authority.

You may need to invest in some training to get your newly hired operators licensed. There are two colleges that have operator training program; Bristol Community College in southeastern MA, and Cape Cod Community College on the Cape.

National Rural Water Association can guide you if want to consider an apprenticeship program as new hires. NRWA and affiliates currently provide training in operator certification, financial sustainability, environmental compliance, utility management and governance to 80,000 water professionals annually. The WaterPro Apprenticeship program is one. Go to: <https://nrwa.org/initiatives/apprenticeship-program/> for more information.

If operators only need some priming before taking operator tests you can find free Test Prep Training Resources at: <http://wateroperator.org/blog/PostId/1386/free-online-small-system-training-operator-manuals-can-help-prepare-for-certification-exams>.

American Water Works Association has put together veteran's workforce resources that can be found at: <https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Workforce/Veterans>.

Board of Health Annual Letter

Massachusetts Boards of Health regulate the private wells in their communities. To work in partnership with them MassDEP sends out an annual letter with information on regulation of water systems. This letter can be reviewed at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-health-safety#boards-of-health>.

Lead and Copper Rule Sampling Requirements

MassDEP will hold a training in each regional office on Lead and Copper Rule Sampling Requirements and Forms Update in late June and early July. Three TCH will be awarded to attendees. For details, reservations, agenda, times, and dates please view the two attached documents.

Natural Resources Conservation Resources

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the United State Department of Agriculture, has several funding programs available. There is funding for Massachusetts Conservation Planning and Implementation Support Partnership, the USDA Announces Availability of \$12.5 Million in Conservation Innovation Grants, and the USDA Opens Signup for New On-farm Trials Effort. To read about these opportunities click on this link: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/249305a>

2019 Hurricane Season

The hurricane season officially began June 1, 2019, and will end on November 30, 2019. Communities in hurricane-prone areas are encouraged to make preparations. EPA has developed tools to help water utilities prepare for, respond to, and recover from hurricane-related impacts. Check out the resources below to increase your utility's hurricane resilience and overall emergency preparedness.

[Hurricane Incident Action Checklist](#)

[Response On-The-Go Mobile App](#)

[Fed FUNDS Online Tool](#)

[Power Resilience Guide](#)

e [Water Utility Response On-The-Go App.](#)

Small System Sanitary Survey Webinar

Sanitary surveys are used to determine a facility's capacity to deliver sustainable drinking water. This webinar on June 25th at 2:00 pm will discuss first-hand information regarding the sanitary survey inspection process. Tips on how to prepare, what to have available, and what is expected after a survey will be provided.

For more information or to register go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-program-webinar-series>

[https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4936342514458430723.](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4936342514458430723)

AWIA Webinars

There is free training available on America's Water Infrastructure Act, Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Requirements and Tools. This is sponsored by EPA's Water security Division and is scheduled for November 5, 2019 in Chelsea with other dates in the fall for EPA's other regions.

For more information and registration go to: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-epa-updated-risk-assessment-and-emergency-response-plan-tools-registration-62724761450.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-epa-updated-risk-assessment-and-emergency-response-plan-tools-registration-62724761450)


Training

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.
